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SEVEN FAMOUS FAIRY TALES

SIMPLIFIED BY
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Illustrated by Mrs. Michael West

EX LIBRIS PEDRO ALFONSO DELGADO
Soy rústico montañés:
mas quien de mí se burlare
tal cual soy será al revés.

Soy pacífico pollino,
mas, lector, si no te aplicas
este será tu destino.
EX LIBRIS PEDRO ALFONSO DELGADO

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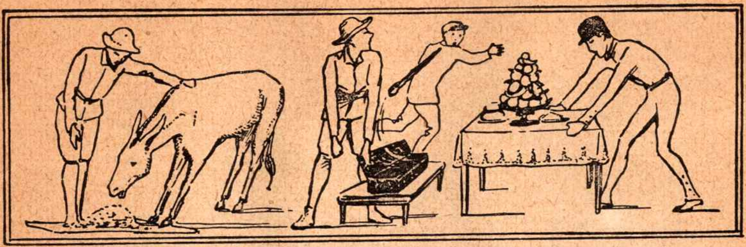


THE TABLE, THE ASS, AND THE STICK

ONCE there was a man who had three sons, Tom, Bob and Jack. And he had one cow. This cow gave milk for them all; so each day it was given very good food. For, if it was not given good food, it could not give milk for so many persons. So on one day Tom led the cow to get food, and on the next day Bob led the cow to get food, and on the next day Jack led the cow to its food.

One morning Tom took the cow to a field near the hill. It walked about there and ate all day. It ate as if it had had no food for a month. At last the sun went down, and it was time to go home again. So Tom asked the cow, " Have you eaten all that you want? " Then the cow answered, " I have eaten as much as I *can* eat to-day. I cannot eat any more." " Come home now," said Tom.

Then Tom led the cow to its hut. He shut the door of the hut, and went to his father.

" Now," said the father, " has the cow eaten as much food as it wants? "

" Yes," answered Tom; " it has eaten as much as it can eat."

But the father wanted to see with his own eyes. So he went to the hut; he put his hand on the cow's back, and said, " Have you had all the food you want? "

Then the cow answered, " How could I have all the food I want? I walked about on the stones on the hillside, and I found no food at all."

"What is this that I hear!" said the man. He ran to his son, Tom, and cried, "You bad boy! You said that the cow had all the food it wanted, and it ate nothing at all!" Then he was very angry: he took a **stick,** and hit Tom, and sent him out of the house.

On the next morning Bob went with the cow. He led the cow into the forest where there were many nice plants for it to eat. The cow ate all day; it ate as if it had had no food for six months. When the sun went down, Bob asked the cow, "Have you had all the food you want?" The cow answered, "I have eaten all that I *can* eat. I cannot eat any more."

"Come home," said Bob, and he led the cow to its hut.

Then the father asked Bob, "Has the cow had all the food that it wants?"

"Yes," answered Bob, "it ate in the forest all day. It ate as much as it could eat."

But the father wanted to see with his own eyes. So he went to the hut, and asked the cow, "Have you had all the food you want?"

Then the cow answered, "How could I have all the food that I want? I walked about in the forest, and I found no food at all."

"The good-for-nothing boy!" cried the father. "He wants to see this beautiful beast die." Then he ran and he took a stick, and he hit Bob and sent him out of the house.

The father then told Jack to take the cow on the next day. Jack knew that there were many beautiful plants near the river, just the plants which cows love to eat. So he took the cow there, and all day it ate and ate as if it had had no food for a year. When the sun went down, it could not bite another bite. Then Jack asked the cow, "Have you eaten all the food you want?" The cow answered, "I have eaten all that I *can* eat. I cannot eat any more."

So he led the cow home and shut it in its hut. The old man asked, "Has the cow had all the food that it wants?" Jack said, "Yes." But the father wanted to see with his own eyes. So he went to the hut and he asked the cow; and the cow answered, "How could I have all the food that I want? I walked about by the side of the river, and I got no food at all."

"The good-for-nothing boy! He is just as bad as the others," cried the old man. He took a stick and hit poor Jack so hard that Jack ran away.

The old man was now alone with his cow. On the next morning he went into the hut and put his hand on the cow and said, "Come, my beautiful cow, I will lead you into the field, and you shall have all the food that you can eat."

Then he led the cow into the field, and he brought plants to it with his own hands. When the sun went down, he asked it, "Have you had all that you want?" And the cow answered, "I have eaten all that I *can* eat. I cannot eat any more." So he led the cow home and put it in its hut. But before he went out of the hut, he asked it again, "Have you had all the food you wanted?" Then the cow answered, "I walked about in the field, and I got no food at all."

When the old man heard this, he did not know what to say or to think. He saw that he had been unjust to his three sons.

"Just wait, you good-for-nothing beast!" he cried. Then he took his stick and he hit the cow so that there were red marks all over it, and it ran away as quickly as it could.

The old man sat down in his house, and he was very sad. He wanted to have his three sons back again, but no one knew where they had gone.

Now Tom had gone to work with a man who made tables, and other things, of wood. He said that he would work with this man for one year. He worked very hard; and, when the year's work was done, the man gave him a table. It was made of wood and it looked like any other table, but it was a Fairy Table.

For if you said to this table, " Be covered," then this table at once became covered with nice food.

Tom was very pleased. He went from one country to another, and from one city to another, and he was always happy. For he could always get good food. When he wanted food, he set down his table in the house, or in the field, or by the road, and said, " Be covered." And at once it was covered with nice things to eat.

After some time Tom thought that he would go back to his father. " He will not be angry now, after all this time," he thought. " So I will live with him, and we shall always have nice food to eat; and we shall not want that bad cow at all ! "

On his journey he came to a house, and he said to the man of the house, " May I stay the night here? "

The man of the house said, " Yes, you may stay, but I have very little food to give you."

Tom said, " Do not give me any food. You shall come and eat with me." Then he put down his table and said, " Be covered "; and at once the table was covered with nice food, and they sat down to eat.

Now this man was a bad man. He thought, " I must have this table. I shall eat from it; and I shall become a cook and sell the food from it to others."

When Tom went to bed, the man took another table and put it in the place of the Fairy Table.

On the next morning Tom put the table on his back, not knowing that it had been changed; and he set out along the road to his father's house.

At noon he came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw his son.

" What have you been doing, my son? " he asked.

" I have been making tables," answered Tom.

" That is a very good thing to do," said the father. " And what have you brought back with you from your journeys? "

" I have brought this table " said Tom.

The father looked at the table and said, " You have not made that table very nicely. It is very old, and it is badly made."

" But," cried Tom, " it is a Fairy Table. When I put it down and say, ' Be covered,' at once it is covered with nice things to eat. Ask all your friends to come and you shall see what a good table it is, and what nice food I will give them to eat."

So the father asked all his friends. And when they had all come, Tom put his table down in front of them and said, " Be covered." But the table was not covered; it did nothing; it stayed there just like any other table. Then poor Tom knew that the table had been changed. His father looked very sad; and all the friends were angry and went away. Then Tom was so unhappy about this, that he ran away from his home and went to work again, making tables.

Now Bob was working with a man who had many asses and carts. When the year was done, the man said to him, " You have worked very hard, so I will give you something. I will give you this ass. You cannot ride upon this ass, and you cannot put it to work in a cart. But it is a very good ass."

" Why do you say that it is good," asked Bob, " if I cannot ride it, and it cannot work in a cart? "

" It is a Fairy Ass," said the man; " it speaks gold. Put a box in front of its mouth and say, ' Bricklebrit,' and gold will fall from its mouth into the box; and the box will be full of gold."

" That is a very good thing," said Bob.

Then Bob went on a journey, taking this ass with him. Wherever he went, he always had all the nicest things that he could get. He gave much money for everything—he gave all that was asked. For, whenever all his money was gone and he wanted more, he said, " Bricklebrit," and his box was full again as before.

When he had gone from one place to another for some time, he thought, " I will go back to my father.

He will not be angry with me now; and when he sees this Fairy Ass, he will be very glad."

So he set out on the road to his home. And he came to the same house where Tom had stayed the night.

" May I stay the night here? " asked Bob.

" Yes," said the man, " if you give me money for your food and for your bed."

" Money! " cried Bob. " You shall have whatever money you ask."

When Bob had eaten his food, the man came and asked him for the money. Then Bob put his hand in his coat to give the man a bit of gold—but there was no money there.

" Wait," said Bob. " I will go and get some more money."

Then he took a box and went out to the hut where his ass was, at the back of the house.

Then the man of the house thought, " I will see where he hides his money. And, in the night, when he is asleep, I will go and take it." So he looked and saw where Bob went. He saw him go into the hut. Then he went and looked through a hole in the wall of the hut.

Bob put the box in front of the ass and said, " Bricklebrit," and soon the box was full of gold.

" That is a good way of getting money! " thought the man. " I must have that ass."

So in the night, when Bob was asleep in bed, the man went to the hut and took away the Fairy Ass, and put another ass there in its place.

In the morning Bob took the ass, thinking that it was his own. At noon he came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw his son.

" What have you been doing, my son? " he asked.

" I have been working with asses and carts," said Bob.

" And what have you brought back from your journeys? "

"An ass," said Bob.

"An ass!" said his father. "A cow would have been nicer."

"Yes," said Bob, "but this is a Fairy Ass. When I say, 'Bricklebrit,' it speaks gold. Call your friends, and I will give them all as much gold as they ask for."

All the friends came. Then Bob brought his ass and stood in front of them.

"Now look," he said. "When I say, 'Bricklebrit,' the ass will speak gold.—BRICKLEBRIT!"

But no gold came.

Poor Bob did not know what to say or to do. He knew that his Fairy Ass had been taken. He ran away from the house and went to work again.

Jack's two brothers sent him a note telling him how they had lost the Fairy Table and the Fairy Ass. Now Jack was working with a man getting sticks from the forest. When the year of work was done, the man said to Jack, "You have worked very hard, so I will give you something. I will give you this box. In the box there is a stick."

"Thank you for this beautiful box," said Jack; "but I do not want the stick. It looks like any other stick, and I want to put something prettier than that in this beautiful box."

"It is a Fairy Stick," said the man. "If any man is unkind or unjust to you, you must say, 'Stick, out of the box!' Then the stick will jump out of the box and will begin to hit the man. It will hit him so hard that he will cry out. And it will go on hitting him. But when you say, 'Stick, back into the box,' it will not hit him any more, but will go back into its box."

Jack thanked him and took the box. Then he went on a journey. On his journey he was never afraid of any bad man. For he said, "Stick, out of the box," and the stick hit the bad man, and very quickly sent him running away as quickly as he could run.

As Jack went on his journey, he came at last to the house where his brothers had stayed—that was the house of the man who had taken the Table and the Ass. He asked for some food. As he ate, Jack began to tell the man about all the things which he had seen on his journeys. " Do you know," said Jack, " that there is a table that is covered with food as soon as you say, ' Be covered '? And there is an ass that speaks gold. I do not know where these things are now, but I saw them once on my journeys. Those are very nice things. But they are not as good as the thing which I have got in this box. There is nothing anywhere so good as the thing which I have got in this box."

When the man heard this he began to think, " What can it be? It must be some very good thing. I must take it from him."

At last Jack went to bed. He put his head on the box and shut his eyes, as if he was asleep.

After some time the man came to Jack's room. He looked at Jack. " I think he is asleep now," he said. He came near to the bed, and put his hand on the box to take it away.

But Jack was not asleep. He had been waiting for the man to come. Just as the man put his hand on the box, Jack said, " Stick, out of the box." Out jumped the stick and began to hit the man on his head and on his arms and on his back, so that he cried out and ran about the room.

Then Jack said, " Give me the Table which is covered with food and the Ass which speaks gold; then I will tell my stick not to hit you any more."

" Yes, yes," cried the man, " I will give them to you. But tell that stick to go back into its box at once."

Next morning Jack went away, taking the Table and the Ass with him. He came to his father's house. The old man was very pleased when he saw him.

" What have you been doing, my son? " he asked.

"I have been working in the forest," answered Jack.

"And what have you brought back from your journey?" asked his father.

"I have brought a stick," answered Jack, "a nice stick in a box."

"A stick!" cried the father. "Why do you bring a stick? You can get a stick from any tree in my garden."

"Yes," said Jack, "but this is a Fairy Stick. If any man is unjust to me, I say, 'Stick, out of the box!' Then out it jumps and begins to hit the man. And when I say, 'Stick, back into the box,' it goes back again. My brothers had a fairy table and an ass that spoke gold. A bad man took these things from them. But, with the help of this stick, I have got them back again. Now send and ask my two brothers to come home. And ask all your friends to come too. I will give them food and money, as much as they want."

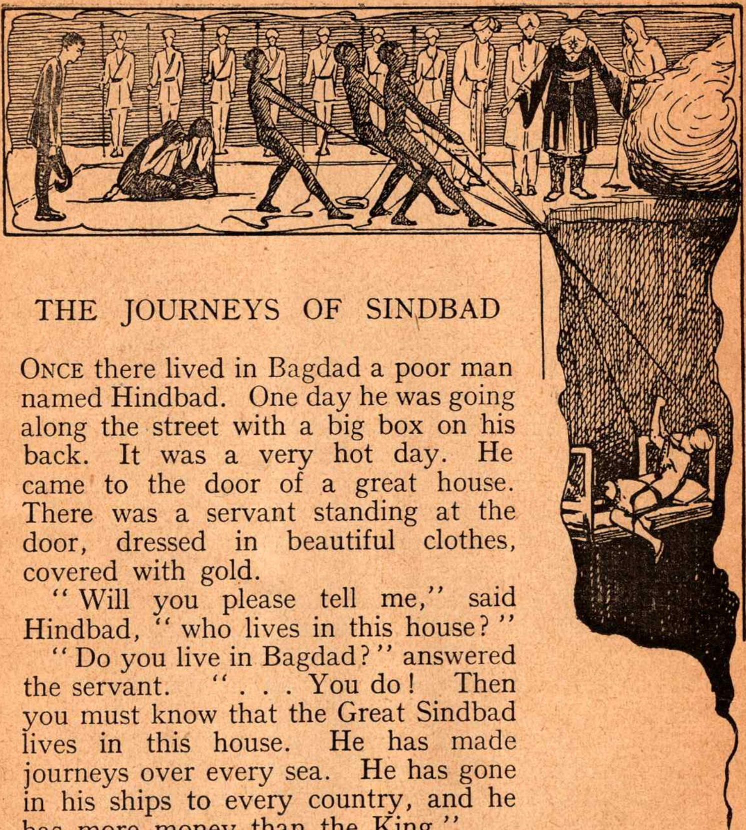
So Tom and Bob came home again. And the old man called all his friends. Then the table was brought in and Tom said, "Be covered," and at once the table was covered with food, and they all ate and were very happy.

Then the ass was brought in. A large box was put in front of it. Then Bob said, "Bricklebrit"; and the ass spoke so much gold that everyone had as much as he could take away.

So the old man and his three sons lived happily ever after.

And now you want to know what the cow did.

The cow was one of those persons who are never happy, whatever you do for them. She walked about the forest, always saying that she would be happier if she were dead. And at last she did die. And so now at last she has got what she wanted!



THE JOURNEYS OF SINDBAD

ONCE there lived in Bagdad a poor man named Hindbad. One day he was going along the street with a big box on his back. It was a very hot day. He came to the door of a great house. There was a servant standing at the door, dressed in beautiful clothes, covered with gold.

"Will you please tell me," said Hindbad, "who lives in this house?"

"Do you live in Bagdad?" answered the servant. ". . . You do! Then you must know that the Great Sindbad lives in this house. He has made journeys over every sea. He has gone in his ships to every country, and he has more money than the King."

Then Hindbad said, "Think how happily this man Sindbad lives, and how unhappy I am! I am a man, as he is. Is it just that he should be so happy and live in this beautiful house, and that I should work hard, and have little food to eat, and live in a hut? What has he done that he should be so much happier than I am?"

Just then a servant came out of the house and said to Hindbad, "Come with me. The Great Sindbad wants to speak to you."

The servant led Hindbad into a great hall. At one side of the hall sat a very old man. This was the Great Sindbad. Near him were many servants waiting to bring him anything that he wanted. He made Hindbad sit down. He then told the servants to bring food. They brought a table covered with nice food and set it before Hindbad; and Hindbad ate.

At last Sindbad spoke. "I heard what you said; for you were standing near this window when you were speaking. You said that it was unjust that I should be so rich, and you so poor. You asked, 'What has Sindbad done that he should live happily in a beautiful house, when I live in a poor hut?' Do not think that I have done nothing to get all these riches. You work hard; but I have worked harder. You are sometimes unhappy; but I have been far more unhappy. I will tell you the story of some of my journeys.

"When my father died, I sold all that I had, and set out on a ship. I wanted to go to India. We went to many cities, selling the things which we had brought with us, and buying other things.

"After many days we came to a small **island**, not bigger than a little field. We wanted to walk about, for we had stayed on the ship for two months. So we brought the ship near. Then we got down from the ship and began to walk and run about on the island.

"After some time we made a fire and began to cook our food.

"Just then the island began to go this way and that, and up and down. We were thrown down on our faces: we could not stand. The men who were still on the ship began to cry out to us, 'It is not an island!' they cried. 'Come back to the ship at once, or you will be killed! It is a great fish!'

"Those men who were nearest to the ship quickly went back. Some others jumped into the sea. But, before I could jump, the fish went down and I was thrown into the water. I put my arms over a bit of wood which we had brought to make our fire. The other men thought that I had come on to the ship. So the ship went away.

"I was alone in the sea.

"I stayed there all day. Night came, and still I stayed with my arms over the bit of wood, not thinking that I had long to live. But, when the day came, I saw that I had come near to another island. I went up on to the island and fell at the foot of a tree. There I slept for many hours.

"When I awoke, the sun was hot. I wanted food. I found some things that looked like apples: I ate these. Then I found some clean water, and drank.

"I wanted to see something of the island. So I went up to the top of a big tree. From there I saw a large white thing—a little hill, or a very large stone—I could not tell what it was. I got down from the tree and set out to see it. As I came near I saw that it was not a stone; for it was white, like snow. It looked like an egg, but it was too large to be an egg. I wanted to get up on to the top of it, but there was no place on which I could put my foot.

"As I stood there, something came over the sky, and the light of day was taken away. I thought that there was going to be rain, or that night was coming on. Then I looked up, and I saw a great bird. This bird was so large that I could not see the sun. Then I remembered that I had heard men speak of a giant bird, called the Roc. And I knew that this white thing must be the egg of a Roc.

"The great bird sat down on its egg. As I was very near the egg, the bird covered me too. Its foot was just in front of me. The foot of the bird was like a great tree. Then I took the cloth that was on my head, and I put it about my body and about the foot of the Roc. For I knew that in the morning the Roc would go to some other island: and so it would take me away on its foot.

"In the morning the bird jumped up, taking me with it. Up and up we went, so that I could not see the countries or the sea as I looked down. I shut my eyes and knew nothing for some time. Then at last I opened my eyes again. The bird had come down upon some other island, and was standing upon a place where there were many little stones, white and red and blue. I quickly took away the cloth. Just as I did this the bird jumped up and went away again. And I stood there alone.

"I looked at the little stones at my feet. They were jewels—red and blue and white jewels!

"I took many of these and put them in my cloth. Then I looked about me to see how I could get out of the place where I was.

"There were great hills all about me. The sides of the hills were like walls, so that I could not go up them. I could not see any way of getting out. All day I walked this way and that, and up and down; but I could see no way of getting out. There were big holes in the hills. I did not go into them, for there was a very bad smell coming out of these holes. I knew that they would not help me to get out, for the holes went down, not up.

"Night came near. I heard a great noise; and, looking back, I saw that out of each of these holes a great ugly beast was coming. Their mouths were so large that they could have eaten a horse or a cow in one bite. I ran to a little hole near me; I hid there and put a great stone in front of it. And I waited there all night.

"At daylight I came out of the hole. The beasts had gone, but I could still smell the smell of them. As I stood there, some large thing fell down at my feet. I looked to see what it was. It was a bit of a dead horse.

"Then I remembered that some person had told me of a place in which there were jewels: but men could not go down to the place to get the jewels. But, he said, there were great birds there—not so big as the Roc—but very large. So the men of that place threw down bits of food which the birds would eat. This food fell upon the jewels. The birds brought the food up, and each bit of food brought some of the jewels with it. Then the men went to the place where the birds ate the food. At the foot of the trees, in which the birds sat, they would find all the jewels—for the birds did not eat the jewels.

"Then I thought, 'If the great birds can take up out of the hole so large a thing as this bit of dead horse, they can take me up with it.' So I put my cloth about the bit of horse and about my body, and waited.

"After some time a great bird came down and took the bit of horse, and brought me up to the top of the hill. The bird went to a big tree and began to eat. As he ate, he bit through my cloth, and I fell down at the feet of some men who were waiting to get the jewels.

"I went with these men to a city; and there I got a ship which brought me to my home. I had with me the jewels which I had taken from the Place of the Ugly Beasts. I sold these, and got much money for them.

"I stayed at home and lived happily for some years. But after a time I said, 'I cannot stay here in the city all my days. I am not a plant that stays in one place. I am alive—a man, and a brave man. I will go out again upon another journey.'

"I bought a ship and put on it many beautiful things to sell. Then I set out.

"I went to many cities and got much money by selling these things and buying others. Then I said, 'Now I will go home and live as a rich man in the city, and not come out upon the sea any more.'

"But that night was a bad night. Rain came. The ship was thrown this way and that, and I was afraid that we should all go down into the waters. Our ship was thrown upon some place—I knew not what place it was. The ship was lost, and most of the men were lost with her. I and six others were saved.

" When we came out of the water we fell down and slept for many hours. Night came, and went by. It was day when we awoke. I said to the six men, ' We will go now and see what place this is, and who are the men living here.' So we set out; and soon we saw some huts. The men came out from the huts and stood about us. They made us go into a hut; and they shut the door.

" Then they brought some red beans and told us to eat them. The six men, who were with me, ate the beans; for they wanted food. But I did not eat them.

" Very soon the six men fell asleep. I could not wake them. I looked through a hole in the wall of the hut, and I saw a great fire. Near the fire there were seven large pots, so large that the body of a man could be put into each of them. The men were making ready to cook. Then I knew what they wanted to do. They had made my men sleep so that they could kill and eat them.

" I went again to my six men: I hit their faces: I threw them this way and that, and did all that I could to make them wake. But they were as men dead. Night was near. The noise outside became greater. I saw the red light of the fire through the holes in the wall. I heard feet outside the door. Then I knew that these six men must die, for I could not do anything more to help them. I put the six men as far from the door as I could, at the far side of the hut. Then I quickly fell down near the door and shut my eyes as if I were asleep.

" The door opened, and the men came in. They went to the far side of the hut to take the six men. As soon as they went there, I jumped up and ran out of the door. There was a forest near the hut. I hid in the forest, and they could not find me.

"I journeyed through the forest for many days, eating what food I could find. At last I came to a great city. The men of that city were very kind to me. They gave me food and clothes. When I had eaten they asked me from what place I had come. I told them that I had come from the other side of the forest. They answered, 'That cannot be, for the persons of that place kill and eat men. No man has ever gone to that place and come back alive.' Then I told them my story, and they said, 'You are a very brave man. We did not think that any man could come out of that place alive.'

"The King of that city heard the story, and sent for me. I went to him and told him all that I had done, and he was very kind to me.

"Now, as I was coming through the forest, I saw there many horses. They were not afraid of me, but would come near and eat food out of my hand. But in the city I saw no horses at all. The men took things from one place to another on their own backs; and, when they made any journey, they walked—for they did not know how to ride.

"Then I caught a horse in the forest, and I brought it to a field in the city. After some days it began to know me, and I could get up on its back. And after some days more I could ride it. Then I rode it through the streets of the city, and all men looked at me, and said, each to the other, 'We never saw anything like this before. He is a wizard.'

"Then the King heard of it, and I rode the horse to his house. He wanted to ride it too. I set him upon the horse and led the horse about in his garden. On the next day he rode the horse—and fell from it some twice or three times: but soon he could ride it. Then I got a horse from the forest, and made it so that the King could ride it, and have it for his own.

"Then all the great men of the city asked me to get horses for them, and I got great riches by doing this.

" One day the King said to me, ' Sindbad, I want to ask you to do something for me.'

" I answered, ' Whatever the King asks shall be done.'

" Then the King said, ' I, and all the men of this city, want you to stay with us, and not go back to your own country any more. You shall marry a rich and beautiful princess and live happily here all your days.'

" So I married a beautiful princess and I lived there very happily for many days.

" Now, I had a friend in that city whose wife became ill; and after some days she died. I went to his house to see how I could help him. I found him sitting there, his face white and afraid as if he were going to die too.

" I said, ' You are sad because your wife is dead. But remember that you are young. You will marry another wife, and you will live happily for many years. Do not think so much of what has been, but think of the many years that are before you.'

" ' Why do you say all this,' he answered, ' when I have but one hour to live? '

" ' No! no! ' I said; ' the thing is not so bad as that. You will live for many, many years.'

" ' I have made all ready, and to-day I shall die,' he answered. ' There is a great hole near a hill at the side of the sea. Into that hole all dead persons are put. If a wife dies, the man is put there with her; and if a man dies, the wife is put there with him. Our fathers did this, and our fathers' fathers. It has ever been so, and it will ever be so. I shall be sent down, living, with the dead, into the Place of the Dead.'

" As he was saying this, all his friends and his wife's friends began to come. The body of his wife was dressed in a rich dress, covered with jewels, and was put upon a bed. And they all set out on their way to the Place of the Dead.

"They came to the great hole, and the body of the wife was sent down on the bed into the hole. Then my friend sat upon another bed. On the bed with him were put six little loaves of bread and a small jar of water. Then he went down into the hole, sitting upon the bed with the six loaves and the jar of water. And a great stone was put upon the mouth of the hole.

"What could I think of this? I had seen it with my own eyes, and I knew not what to think. I spoke to the King, saying that it should not be. But he would not hear me. 'Our fathers have done it,' he said, 'and our fathers' fathers. If the Queen were to die, I, too, should go down with her into the Place of the Dead.'

"I went to my house, sad and afraid. Every day and every hour I looked at my wife, afraid that she was ill. I looked at the food which she ate and at the water which she drank. I saw how many hours she woke and how many hours she slept. Never did any man think so much about his wife as I did.

"After some months she became ill. And she died.

"They took her, and put on her richest dress, and put upon her all her jewels and took her to the Place of the Dead. And the King came and all the great men of the city. And they made me go too.

"Very soon I found that I was going down into the hole, sitting upon a bed with six loaves and a little jar of water.

"As soon as I was down, the stone was put back upon the top. But some light still came through a small hole where the stone had not gone back into its place. By this light I could see about me. It was a great hall; I could not see how big it was. Where I sat, the dead were on all sides of me: but on the other side there was nothing. I got up quickly, taking my bread and water, and went to the other side of the hall, and sat down upon a stone.

"The light that came from the top became red as the sun went down. Then it was night.

"I slept some hours. Then I awoke, thinking that I heard a noise. What noise could there be when there was none living in this place but I? I shut my eyes again; and after a little time day came. I looked about me. One of my loaves was gone!

"The day went by. Night came. I could not sleep. As soon as I shut my eyes, I thought that I heard some little noise in front of me—or at this side—or on that side—or at the back. Then I jumped from my bed to find what it could be, and stood there, too much afraid to do anything even if I had found it! At last, when it was near morning, I fell asleep.

"Day had come before I awoke. I looked at my loaves. Another loaf had gone in the night!

"Then I sat down and thought. 'Bread,' said I, 'is a thing to eat; and the dead eat nothing. It is some living thing that takes this bread. And if a living thing can come into this place, I, who am a living thing, can go out of it. I will stay as if I were sleeping, and I will see what this thing is.'

"Never did a day seem so long, as I waited and waited for night to come. At last night came, and I set my head on the stone with the loaves in front of me very near my face. And I stayed there as if I were asleep.

"Hours went by, and nothing came. Sleep came over me, as rain comes over a blue sky. But I bit my hand and was awake again. More hours. And then I heard a little noise. Then there was a smell as if there were some beast standing with its nose very near to me. I opened one eye and looked—and I saw two eyes looking at me. I shut my eye and waited. I heard the beast go, taking my loaf with him. I went after it; I could hear the noise of its feet. It led me to a side of the place where I had not gone before. The walls came nearer and nearer.

The top hit my head. Then I went down upon my hands and feet. I thought, ' The hole will soon become so small that I cannot go on.'

" At last I saw a little light, like a white jewel, far away. I went on, and it became larger. And then there was the smell of the sea. And I came out upon the side of the hill. And at my feet was the sea, golden in the light of the new day.

" I waited there for some days, and then I saw a ship not far away. I made a fire, and they came to me. And so I came home again."

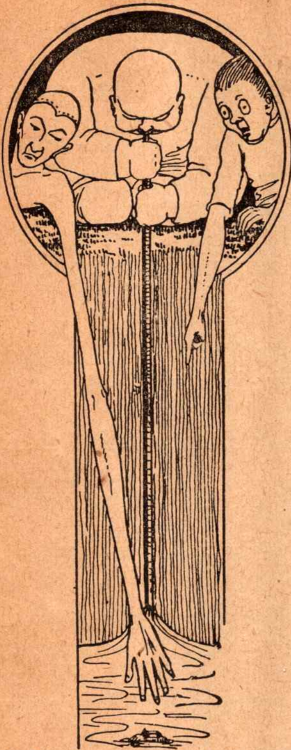
Then Sindbad turned to the poor man, Hindbad, saying:

" These are some of my journeys. There are many more which I could tell you. Have I worked, or have I done nothing that I should be rich and live in this house? "

" You have lived," answered Hindbad, " as no other man has lived before."

Sindbad stood up. " Give to him a hundred *sequins*," he said (that is, " *money* "). The servant did so.

" And now," said Sindbad, " I wait only for my last journey, upon which a man takes nothing to sell, and no money to buy, and no ship to go in.—And no man has ever come back."



THE PRINCE AND HIS SERVANTS

ONCE there was a Queen. This Queen had a beautiful Princess. Many Princes wanted to marry the Princess, but the Queen said to them, "I shall give you something to do. If you can do it, you shall marry the Princess; but if you cannot do it, you shall be killed." None of the Princes could do the things which the Queen said. So they were all killed. Every month some new Prince came, and was killed.

Now Prince Carol was the son of a poor King who had a very small country and very little money. Prince Carol heard of the beauty of the Princess, and he said to his father, "I want to marry the beautiful Princess." "Never!" cried the King: "for if you go there, you will die, as many have died before you."

The Prince was very sad when he heard this answer. He was so sad that he became very ill, and his father was afraid that he would die. At last the King said, "Go, then; go to the Princess: and may you be more happy than the others have been."

The Prince was very pleased when he heard this. After three days he got out of bed, and very soon he set out to the city in which the Princess lived. He had no servants to go with him, for he was a poor Prince. He said, "I will find servants on the way."

Now as the Prince went on his way, he saw a little hill far away. He said, " I do not remember any hill in that place. This must be some new hill. But how could a new hill come in a place where there was no hill before? "

Then he rode to the place and he saw that it was not a hill, but a very **fat** man on his back asleep. As the Prince came near, the fat man awoke.

" What are you doing here? " said the Prince.

" I *was* sleeping," said the man; " and now I am awake."

" Why were you sleeping? "

" I was sleeping because I had a little bit of food to eat this morning. I am awake because now I want more."

" What did you have to eat this morning? " asked the Prince.

" Three cows and a hundred loaves," said the man.

" Will you be my servant? " said the Prince.

" Yes," said the Fat Man, " if you will give me food to eat."

So the Fat Man went with the Prince as his servant.

Now as they went on their way, they came to another man. He had his head down so that his ear was in the dust. When he looked up, the Prince saw that one ear was very large.

" What are you doing? " asked the Prince.

" Hearing," said the man.

" What do you hear? " said the Prince.

" I hear the trees growing," said the man; " and I hear the birds in a country far away over the sea."

" Tell me, then, what do you hear in the house of the beautiful Princess? " asked the Prince.

" I hear the Princess crying because another poor Prince has just been killed."

" Will you be my servant? " said the Prince.

" Yes," said Big Ear, " I will be your servant."

Now as they went on their way they saw two long things at the side of the road far away. They thought that it was two trees which had fallen down. But, as they came nearer, they saw that it was a man's arms. They were the longest arms that they had ever seen. After going on for some way, they came to the man's head.

"You are a very long person," said the Prince.

"I am not so long as I *can* be," answered the man. "I can make my arms much longer than that."

"Come with me," said the Prince, "and be my servant."

So Long Arms went with the Prince.

As they went on their way they saw a man with a bit of cloth over one eye.

"Why have you covered your eye with that cloth?" asked the Prince. "Has some dust gone into your eye?"

"No," said the man. "I see very far, and I can see through everything. So, if I want to look at things which are near, I must put a cloth over one eye."

"Come with me, and be my servant," said the Prince.

So Quick Eyes went with the Prince.

As they went on their journey the sun became very hot; so that the Prince opened his coat. Then they came to a man sitting by the side of the road: he had two coats on, and he was covered with clothes so that his face could not be seen. But they heard him saying, "Oh, how cold it is! How cold it is!"

"Why do you say that it is cold," asked the Prince, "when the sun is so hot that I have opened my coat? Why do you not open the front of your coat?"

"If I opened the front of my coat," answered the man, "snow would fall, and you and your friends would die of cold."

"Come with me," said the Prince, "and be my servant."

So the Cold Man went with the Prince.

The Prince came with his servants to the city where the Princess lived. He went to the Queen and said, "I want to marry the Princess. What must I do?"

The Queen answered, "I will give you three things to do; and, if you can do them, you shall marry the Princess."

"What must I do to-day?" asked the Prince.

"I had a beautiful ring, and it has fallen into the river. Bring me that ring before the sun goes down."

Then the Prince went to his servants, and said, "What shall we do?"—and he told them what the Queen had said.

"I can help you," said Quick Eyes. Then he took the cloth from his eye, and he looked at the river. "There is the ring," he said. "It is on a little stone not far from here."

"If I could see it," said Long Arms, "I could get it."

Then the Fat Man opened his mouth, and he drank; and he drank up all the river so that there was no water there at all. Then Long Arms made his arm long and took the ring, and gave it to the Prince.

The Queen was very angry when she saw her ring. Then she said, "Now I must give this Prince some very hard thing which no man can do." So she thought and she thought. She did not sleep at all that night.

On the next morning she sent for the Prince and said, "You must want food after your long journey. I have three hundred cows in a field near my house. Eat them all before noon. If I find one bit when I come, I shall kill you."

"May I ask a friend to eat with me?" said the Prince; "for no one likes to eat alone."

"You may ask *one* friend," said the Queen.

So the Prince asked the Fat Man to come with him to the field. The Fat Man very soon ate all the cows; and he ate all the Queen's hens too, and her ducks, and every bit of bread in her house. Then he said, "Is that all there is to eat to-day? You told me that I should have all I wanted."

At noon the Queen called for her food. She waited and waited, but no food came. Then she sent for the cook. "Why is no food ready to-day?" she asked. The cook answered, "A fat man has eaten all the food in the house, and all the hens and the ducks. There is no food to be had—not a bit."

Then the Queen thought and thought; and at last she said, "Ha! Ha! That is how I will catch him."

She sent for the Prince and said, "Will you come and eat with me to-night? And after that would you like to sit with the Princess for two hours?"

"Yes," said the Prince, "I would like that!"

"You will not fall asleep when you are speaking to the Princess, will you?" said the Queen.

"Fall asleep!" cried the Prince. "No!"

"If you fall asleep, I shall take the Princess away from you. If I do not find the Princess with you when I come, you shall be killed."

So the Prince put on his most beautiful clothes, and he went to the Queen's house. Servants came and brought very nice things to eat, and nice things to drink. When the Prince was not looking, the Queen put a powder into his glass. The Prince drank, and did not know what had been done.

Then the Queen said, "Come, you shall see the Princess."

He went with the Queen and they came to a room at the top of the house. The window opened out over the sea. The Princess sat by the window. The sun was going down, and the red light of it was on the water, and on the face of the Princess; and all the room was full of the light of roses.

The Prince sat down near the Princess, and they were very happy for a little time. Then the Prince knew that sleep was beginning to come over him. His eyes would not stay open. He did not know what he was saying; he could not hear what was said. Then his eyes shut. And he knew nothing.

After a little time he opened his eyes again. The Princess was not there! He looked everywhere in the room, but he could not find her. She was gone! He ran to the window and looked out. There he saw the Fat Man. He called to him, " The Princess is gone! We have one hour in which to find her! "

" I cannot hear what you are saying," said the Fat Man.

Then the Big Ear came, and he heard what the Prince said.

" Bring me down," said the Prince.

Then Long Arms put out his arms and took the Prince down from the window.

" Can you hear where she is, Big Ear? " said the Prince.

Big Ear put down his ear. " Yes," he said, " she is there. I hear her calling. She says, ' I am here, my Prince. I am on the island. I am hidden in a hole in a tree.' "

Quick Eyes looked. " Yes," he said, " I see her."

" But we have no ship to go to her! " cried the Prince. " What shall we do? "

Then the Cold Man opened his coat. Oh! it was cold! So cold! Snow fell. He jumped into the sea, and the water became hard so that they could run over it. So they brought the Princess back. Then Long Arms put the Prince and Princess back through the window into the room. Just as they sat down, the door opened, and in came the Queen.

The Queen was very angry when she saw the Princess there; but she said nothing.

" We have been speaking about nice things," said the Prince, " about trees, and islands."

" Come with me," said the Queen. " It is night, and I have made ready a room for you to sleep in. Your servants may sleep there too."

So the Prince kissed the Princess's hand and then went away with the Queen. She took him to a big room, all made of stone. He went in, and his servants went in with him. Then the Queen shut the door. She ran to the cook and said, " Make a great fire under the stone room. The fire shall burn all night."

After a little time the Prince said, " This room is very hot."

" It is hot," said the Fat Man.

The Prince went to the door. He could not open it.

" I hear a great fire burning," said Big Ear.

But Mr. Cold Man was happy. " This *is* a nice room ! " he said.

" Open your coat, Cold Man," said the Prince.

So Mr. Cold Man opened his coat. Then the room became very cold, and the others were all happy.

The Queen came to the door and heard them speaking. Then she ran to the cook and said, " Make the fire hotter."

" This is a nice room ! " said Mr. Cold Man.

" We are being burnt," said the others.

Then the Prince took away Mr. Cold Man's coat, so that he had no coat at all. " Oh, I am so cold ! " he said. " Please give me back my coat."

Snow fell in the room. The Prince could not speak because he was so cold, and the Fat Man was crying !

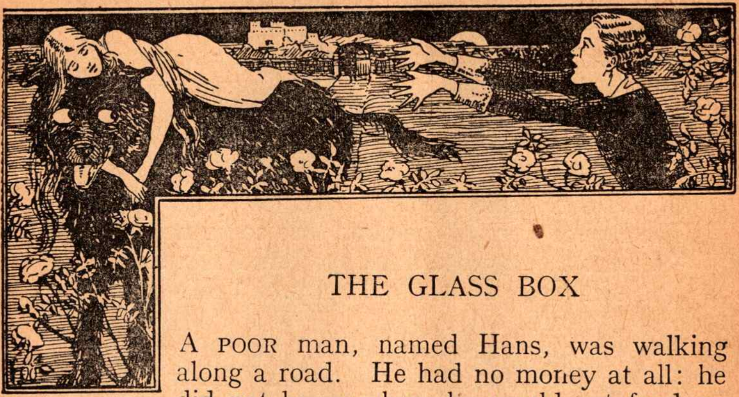
Then the Queen came to the door. She heard nothing.

" They are dead now," she said.

So she opened the door. And they all came out.

" Let us go and sit by a fire," said the Prince. " My face and my hands are blue with cold."

Then the Queen knew that she could do nothing more. She went away to another country. The Prince married the Princess and they lived happily ever after. And the good servants lived with them.



THE GLASS BOX

A POOR man, named Hans, was walking along a road. He had no money at all: he did not know where he would get food on the next day. But he was happy. "I shall find something," he said: "I always *do* find something."

Just then a very ugly old woman called to him from the side of the road.

"What do you want?" said Hans.

"What do *you* want?" said the old woman.

"I?" answered Hans. "I want money: that is what I want."

"You shall have just as much money as you want," said the old woman. "Do you see that large tree? Go up to the top of it. At the top you will see a large hole. Go down into that hole and you will come into a great hall. There are three hundred lamps burning and all the hall is full of light. There are three doors in the hall. The key of each door is near the door so that you can open it. If you open one door and go into the room you will see a big box. On the box is sitting a **dog** with eyes as large as eggs. Do not be afraid of the dog. Take this cloth, and put it down in front of the dog. Take the dog and put it on the cloth. Then open the box and take as much money as you want. But, if you want gold, you must go into the other room. There sits a dog with eyes as big as apples. Do not be afraid of him. Put him on the cloth; open the box, and take as much gold as you want. If you want jewels, you must go into the last room. There sits a dog with eyes as big as loaves. But you must not be afraid of him. Put him on the cloth; then open the box and take as many jewels as you want."

"Thank you," said Hans. "That will be very nice. But what shall I do for you? You have not told me all this for nothing."

"I do not want any money," said the old woman. "I want one little thing. There is a little glass box there which my grandmother lost when she went there. Bring me the box."

The man then went up the tree. At the top he found a big hole. He went into the hole. Then he went down and down and down. Then he saw a light. He went to it, and he saw that he was in a great hall, in which hundreds of lamps were burning.

In the hall he saw three doors. He opened one door and in the little room he saw . . . ! He saw a dog with eyes as big as eggs. And the dog LOOKED at him.

"Good dog!" said Hans. Then he put the cloth down, and he took the dog and put it on the cloth. Then he filled his hat with money from the box. He shut the box, put the dog back upon it, and went to the other room.

When he opened the door of the other room he saw . . . ! He saw a dog with eyes as big as apples. And the dog LOOKED at him.

"Do not look at me," said Hans: "you may get dust in your eyes."

Then he put the dog on the cloth and he opened the box. The box was full of gold. So he threw away all the money from the other room, and filled his hat with gold.

Then he went into the last room, and he saw . . . ! I do not think I can tell you what he saw! He saw a dog with eyes as big as loaves, and it LOOKED at him!

"I am pleased to see you," said Hans. "I have never seen a dog like you before."

Then he put the dog on the cloth and opened the box. Then he took the shoes from his feet and filled them with jewels.

He put the dog back on the box, and shut the door; then he remembered the old woman's box. So he went back to get it. Then he came to the top of the tree.

The old woman called to him, "Throw down the box."

"No," said Hans; "it is made of glass."

"Throw it down to me," cried the old woman.

But he did not throw it. Then a large stone hit him on the head, so that he thought he would fall from the tree and be killed. But he caught the tree again and was saved.

"Did you throw that stone?" he called.

"Yes. Give me the box!"

"I will not give you the box at all now," he answered.

Then the old woman became very angry. But she could do nothing. She called him bad names, but he did not answer. After a little time he walked away along the road, and she called out more bad names after him.

It was night when he came to the town. He had as much money as he could take with him. So he went to a very good house and asked for a good room, and told them to bring him the nicest food they had. On the next day he went out and bought the most beautiful clothes that he could get. Everyone thought that he must be some great and very rich person; and many persons came to him, thinking to get money from him for one thing or another.

One day a man said to him, "Have you heard about the Princess?"

"What Princess?" asked Hans. "Where can I see her?"

"You cannot see her," answered the man.

"Why not?"

"Because she is shut up in a great house made of stone. It has one door and the King has the key of that door. The windows are all at the top of the house very far up. And she never goes out."

"Why does she live in this way?" asked Hans.

"She lives in this way," answered the man, "because some wizard once said to the King, 'The Princess will marry a poor man who is living in a hut.' The King was very angry when he heard this. He made the stone house, and shut up the Princess inside it."

"I *do* want to see the Princess," said Hans. But he could not see her. He went to look at the stone house; but the King's servants very quickly sent him away from there. Then he put on his nicest clothes and went to see the King: but, when the King heard what he wanted, he was very angry, and said, "If that man ever comes near my house again, you may kill him and bring me his head!"

All this time Hans was living very happily—and his money was going very quickly. One day he looked in his box to see how much money he had, and he saw only two bits of gold in the box! He went away from the big house in which he had been living. He went and lived in a hut. He cooked his own food and he cleaned his own shoes. All his rich friends went away from him: they did not ask him to come to their houses any more. Hans was poor now: his clothes were ugly: he had no more money; so the friends did not want him. (Most men are like that.)

Then a night came when all Hans' money was gone; there was not a bit even to buy food. He had sold all his beautiful clothes. He looked about the room to see what other thing he could sell. And there, on the table, he saw the little glass box.

"I shall not get much money for this," he said, "but it may buy me a loaf of bread. It is made of glass, but I cannot see into it: there may be some jewel or some gold inside, and then I shall be happy. I will look and see what there is inside." But he could not open the box—it would not open! Then he hit it once with his hand. It opened; and out came the dog whose eyes were as large as eggs!

"What do you want?" said the dog.

"What do I want?" cried Hans. "I want money!"

Away went the dog, and soon it came back again, bringing a box of money in its mouth.

Hans thought for a little time, and then he said, "Now I know! If I hit the box once, the dog will come whose eyes are as big as eggs, and will bring me money. If I hit it twice, the dog will come whose eyes are as big as apples, and will bring me gold."

He hit the box twice, and so it was. The other dog came, and brought gold.

Then he hit the box three times, and the last dog came, and brought jewels.

Hans was rich again. He bought beautiful clothes, and he went and lived in a big house. And all the "friends" came back. "We have not seen you for a long time," they said. "We have been so sad. Why did you not come and see us?"

But Hans was not happy with these friends any more. He thought of nothing but the poor Princess.

"Poor girl," he said, "shut up in that house. She can never go out; she can never even walk in the garden. She can never speak to anyone but the servants and that ugly old King. How unhappy she must be!"

It was night, but Hans could not sleep. At last he got up from his bed. He took the glass box and hit it once. The dog came.

"It is night," said Hans; "so no one will know. It is such a beautiful night. I know that the Princess would like to go walking in my garden, and see the sleeping flowers. Bring her to me."

In a very little time the dog came again. The Princess was on his back, still sleeping. Her face was so beautiful, and so sad: she looked as if she had been crying.

"Poor girl," said Hans. He took her out into the garden. She woke.

"Where am I?" she cried. "I am afraid!"

"You are walking with me in my garden," said Hans. "Look at all the flowers sleeping. How nice the white roses smell."

"A garden!" said the Princess. "I have not walked in a garden for years and years. Dust at my feet, and the sky over my head! It is not seen through a window now, but I am in it! . . . And I hear all the little noises of the night, all about me!"

She walked with Hans in the garden. Then day came near. "I must go," she said. "How did I come here?" Hans told her, and she hit the box with her own little white hand.

"What do you want, Princess?" said the dog with eyes like eggs.

"Good dog," she cried. "But what eyes! What beautiful eyes you have got! Take me home, and let no one see us. Thank you, Mr. Hans, so much!"

When the Princess got on to the dog's back, she fell asleep, and never knew anything. When she awoke, she found that she was in bed, and an ugly servant-woman, named Anna, was saying, "It is noon, Princess, and THE KING is waiting to see you."

"Is he?" said the Princess happily. She jumped out of bed. "What a nice day it is, Anna!"

Then Anna began to think. The Princess had never before been in bed at noon. And the Princess was not always so happy in the morning: "Another long day alone in this stone house," she would say. Then Anna looked; on the Princess's clothes she saw dust, the dust of a garden; and in the Princess's room she found a white rose. Now there were no white roses in the garden of the King's house.

Anna went and told the King. (The Queen was dead.) The King said, " Wait and see. If she goes out again, see where she goes."

Hans loved the Princess. All day he thought of her, and all night too. After some days he could wait no more. He hit the box twice, and the dog came with eyes as big as apples. " Bring the Princess to my garden," he said. " Tell her that Hans is waiting for her."

So the dog went and brought the Princess. But Anna was waiting. She saw the Princess go out. Then Anna ran as quickly as she could, and she saw the dog go to the door of a big house. She made a mark on the door of the house. Then she went home.

The Princess and Hans walked in the garden. Hans told her all about the old woman, and the tree, and the hall with three hundred lamps in it, and the three dogs, and the glass box. Then he told her about the little hut where his mother had lived, and about his brothers and his sisters. The Princess loved hearing all these things. And she told Hans about her mother, and how her mother died, and about the old King, her father. " He was a great man in his time," she said; " but now he is old. He gets angry about little things. That is why he shut me up in the stone house. He does not want to be King. He loves roses, but he cannot make any white roses grow in his garden, and he is very sad about it." And then morning began to come back into the sky. " Good night, Hans," said the Princess. He hit the box twice, and the dog came and took her back home.

Now the dog had eyes as big as apples, and he could see everything. He saw the mark on the door and he came back and told Hans.

" Ho! Ho! " cried Hans. " Come with me quickly and we will make marks on all the doors in the street, and in the next street too." So Hans and the dog made marks on all the doors.

Day came, and Anna went to the King and told him what she had done.

Then the King went with Anna and some of his servants. They came to the street.

" Here is the house," cried Anna.

" No, here it is," cried the King.

And one of the servants came running from the next street. " I have found the house," he said; " there is a mark on it just as the woman said."

Then they saw that all the houses had marks. And the King went home very angry.

Then Anna thought and thought. After some time she went into her own room and shut the door. She took her needle, and she made a little net. She put small beans in the net. Then she hid the net in the Princess's night-clothes.

" There ! " she said. " Now the Princess will go out; and, as she goes through the streets, the beans will fall from the net. Then we shall see where the beans have fallen and they will lead us to the house."

That night Hans walked in the garden with the Princess.

" I *do* want to be a prince," said Hans.

And the Princess said, " I do want *not* to be a princess."

" Why? " said Hans. She did not answer. And then he told her, " I want to be a prince so that I can marry you."

" Do not be a prince," said the Princess. " I could not love you at all if you were a prince. I will be a poor girl, and you—you shall be just Hans."

Now the dog with eyes like loaves came that night, and he could see at night just as if it were day. He saw the King and Anna, and a hundred servants come out of the King's house. He saw them look at the beans, and he cried out to the Princess, " The King ! The King ! Come at once ! " Hans ran and put her on the dog's back, and away went the dog through other streets.

But the King and Anna and the King's servants came to Hans' house.

"Has the Princess been here?" cried the King.

Hans did not answer.

And then they saw . . . ! They saw the Princess's shoe just at the foot of a little rose tree. White roses, too! And that made the King all the more angry, because he could not grow white roses in *his* garden.

They took Hans away and shut him in a room in the King's house, with a very small window. And they shut the door. "You shall be killed at noon," said the King as he went away.

Hans looked for his box. It had fallen from his hand in the garden, so he could not call his dogs to help him.

Now Hans had a beautiful gold ring. When day came, he looked out of the window, and he saw that he was near the street.

A little boy came along the street with some eggs.

"Hai! Little boy!" cried Hans.

"What?" said the boy.

"Do you want this nice ring?"

"Yes," said the boy.

"Then go to my house and say to the servant, 'Mr. Hans had a little glass box. It fell from his hand in the garden. He has asked me to bring it to him.' Bring me the box and I will give you this beautiful ring."

"Yes," said the boy.

After some time the boy came back.

"Here," said the boy: and he gave Hans the box. Then Hans gave him the ring.

Just then the door opened, and in came the King's men.

They brought Hans to a little hill in a great open place just outside the town. All the men of the town were there. They had come to see Hans killed! On the little hill stood the King, and all the great men of the city. And in front of him stood a big man dressed in a long red coat; and in his hand was a great axe.

"Are you ready?" said the King to the Red Man.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man to Hans.

"No," said Hans, and he took out the glass box.

"Are you ready?" said the King to the Red Man.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man to Hans.

"No," said Hans, and he hit the box once.

"Are you ready?" said the Red Man.

Hans hit the box twice—three times. And the three dogs stood before him.

"Take that Red Man away," said Hans to the dog with eyes like eggs, "and throw him and his axe into the river." And the dog did so.

"Send all those men away," said Hans to the dog with eyes like loaves. The dog grew bigger and bigger. At last he was as big as a house, and all the men ran back to the city as quickly as they could run.

"Bring the King to me," said Hans. "And bring the Princess too." Then two of the dogs brought the King, one dog standing on each side of him. And the other dog came running up with the Princess sitting on his back.

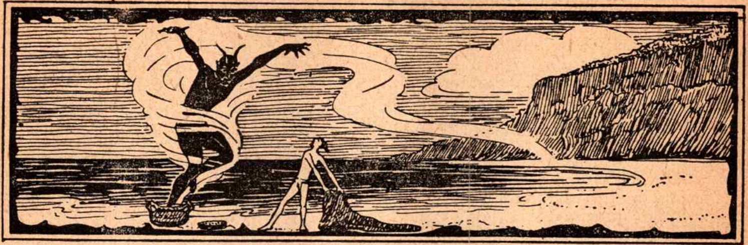
"Do you want to be King?" said Hans.

"No," said the King, "I do not. I want to grow roses."

"If I tell you how to grow *white* roses, will you give me the Princess, and make us King and Queen in your place?"

"Gladly," answered the King.

So Hans married the Princess, and they lived happily ever after. And the old King lived in a house near them, and grew white roses.



THE FISHERMAN AND THE GIANT

THERE was a poor fisherman. He was very old and very poor. He had a wife and three children. He could not get food for them, and he did not know what to do.

One day he went to catch fish. He put out his net. There was something very big in the net. He took in the net, and saw in the net the dead body of a cow. He was very angry; but he put the net out again. There was something big in the net; so he took it in; and he saw in the net three old pots. He said, "What shall I do? I am a poor man, and I cannot get food for my wife and my children." Then he put out the net again, and took it in; but he saw in it only stones. He said, "I will put the net out now, and I shall not put it out again."

So he put out his net, and waited. Then he took it in. There was no fish in the net, but a jar made of gold. The top of the jar was shut. There was something written on the top.

The Fisherman said, "This is something. It is a good jar. I will sell it, and I will get food with the money."

He looked at the jar again: then he said, "There is something inside the jar. I will open it." So he opened the jar, and put it down at his feet. Then there came out of the jar a great Giant.

The Fisherman was afraid.

The Giant said, " Now, Fisherman, I shall kill you."

The Fisherman said, " Why will you kill me ? "

" You opened the jar, and for that I shall kill you," said the Giant. " But you may say how you want to die. Shall I kill you with my hands ? Or shall I throw you into the sea ? "

" But," said the Fisherman, " I do not want to die. What have I done to you that you want to kill me ? "

" I will tell you," said the Giant. " I became angry with my King, the King of the Giants. So he shut me up in this jar. On the top of the jar he wrote his name so that I could not come out. Then he threw the jar into the sea. When I was in the jar, I said, ' If any man opens this jar I will make him a great king.' A hundred years went by, and no man opened the jar. Then I said, ' I will not make him a *great* king, but I will make him a king.' Two hundred years went by, and no man opened the jar. Then I said, ' I will not make him a king, but I will make him a rich man.' Three hundred years went by; I became angry and I said, ' If any man opens the jar now, I shall kill him, and I shall give him this —that he may say how he will die.' So you see, you have opened the jar. Now say how you want to die."

The Fisherman said, " I want to ask you one thing. Will you answer it ? "

" I will," said the Giant, " if you ask it quickly."

The Fisherman said, " Were you in that jar ? "

" I was," said the Giant.

The Fisherman looked at the jar, and said, " But you are so big. One of your feet is as big as the jar. You were not in the jar. Why do you not think before you speak ? Is there nothing inside your head ? "

The Giant was angry : he became small again, and went into the jar. Then the Giant inside the jar said, " You see now that I was in the jar." The Fisherman quickly took the top and put it on the jar. Then he said, " Now, Giant, I shall throw the jar back into the sea, and I shall tell all fishermen not to take it out again."

The Giant could not get out of the jar, for the name of the King of the Giants was written on the top.

Then the Giant said, " If you will open the jar, I will make you rich."

" No, you will kill me."

" No," said the Giant, " I shall not kill you. I will make you very, very rich."

" Then," said the Fisherman, " I will open it."

And he opened the jar again.

The Giant came out of the jar; then he quickly took the jar and threw it into the sea. Then he said to the Fisherman, " Bring your net and come with me."

They went by the side of the city; then they went up a hill. Then they went down and came to three hills, and a great sea of blue water. In the water there were many fish.

The Giant said, " Put in your net."

The Fisherman put in his net, then took it out, and in the net he saw three fish. They were very beautiful fish—red, and white, and gold. The Giant said, " Take the fish to the King, and he will give you much money for them."

The Giant hit a stone with his foot. A great hole opened, and he went down into it.

Then the Fisherman went to the King and took the three fish.

The King cried, " What beautiful fish! " He said to the Vizir, " Take these fish. Give them to the cook, and tell him to make them ready."

The King gave the Fisherman much gold. The Fisherman was very pleased. He went and got food and clothes, and all that his wife and children wanted.

The King's cook took the fish and put them in a pot. He put the pot on the fire. Then the wall of the room opened and a beautiful woman came out.

She went up to the pot and said, " Fish, fish, are you doing your work ? "

The fish said nothing. She said again, " Fish, fish, are you doing your work ? " Then the fish put up their heads, and said, " We are: and we are happy." Then the woman threw the pot down: the wall opened, and she went into it.

The fish had fallen into the fire and were burnt. The King sat and waited. Then he said to the Vizir, " Go and see why the fish are not ready."

The Vizir went, and the cook told him what he had seen.

The Vizir did not know what to think of this. He sent for the Fisherman and said, " Bring me three more fish."

The Fisherman went and got three more fish. The Vizir took the fish and went with the cook. The cook put the fish in the pot, and put the pot on the fire. Then the wall opened, and a woman came out and said, " Fish, fish, are you doing your work ? " And the fish answered, " We are: and we are happy." The Vizir went and told the King what he had seen.

Then the King wanted to see this thing: he sent for the Fisherman and said, " Bring me three more fish like those."

The Fisherman went and got three more fish and took them to the King. The King gave him more gold. Then the King went with the cook. The cook put the fish in a pot, and put the pot on the fire. Then the wall opened, and a big man with a red beard came out and said, " Fish, fish, are you doing your work ? " The fish answered, " We are: and we are happy." Then the man threw the pot down, and the fish fell into the fire and were burnt. The wall opened: the man went into it, and the wall was shut.

The King said, " I do not know what to think of this. But I *will* know." He sent for the Fisherman, and said, " Fisherman, where do you get those fish ? "

The Fisherman said, " I get them from a sea of blue water near three hills on the other side of the city."

" Do you know that place ? " said the King to the Vizir.

The Vizir said, " No. I have gone to that side of the city; but I never saw three hills and a sea of blue water near them."

" How far is it from here ? " said the King.

" It is three hours," answered the Fisherman.

Then the King and all his men went with the Fisherman. They went through the country on the other side of the city, and they came to three hills; and near the three hills they saw a sea of blue water. They saw fish in the water like those of the Fisherman.

Then the King said, " Wait in this place, all of you; and I will go and see what there is to be seen."

Then the King went up the hill. On the other side of the hill he saw a great house, all made of red stone. He hit the door with his hand: but no one came. He called: no one answered. He went in, and saw beautiful rooms; but no one was there. On all sides of the house were gardens full of flowers. Then the King went into a big hall. As he stood there, he heard someone speak, " How soon shall I die ? I do not want to live."

The King looked and saw a young man sitting on the other side of the room.

The King went to him. The young man did not stand up; but he said, " I know you are a King, but I cannot stand up." Then the young man took away the cloth, and the King saw that his feet were made of white stone.

The King said, " How is this ? Why are your feet made of stone ? Why do the fish speak ? Why does a big man with a beard come out of the wall of the room ? Tell me all this."

The young man said, " I will tell you. Where this sea and these three hills are, there was once a great city. My father was King of that city. When my father died, I became King of the city. I married a beautiful woman; but she did not love me. She loved a servant. I wanted to kill that servant; I hit him, but I did not kill him; he did not die. My wife was very angry. She said something, and my feet became stone: the city became three hills and a sea of blue water; and all the men and women in the city became fish in the water. In this garden there is a little house made of white stone: in that house is the servant. He lives, but he cannot walk. Each day my wife goes and sees him."

Then the King went to the house in the garden: he saw the servant there on a bed. He killed the servant; then he got on to the bed, and waited. Then the woman came and said, "Are you happy, my servant?"

The King said, "I cannot sleep, for the young King cries out so because his feet are changed to stone."

Then she took some water and threw it over the young man, and his feet were not stone; so he stood up and walked.

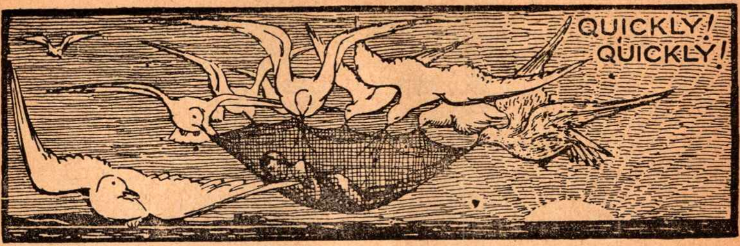
Then the King said, "I cannot sleep for the men of the city call out from the water at night. Make them men again."

She went to the side of the great sea of blue water and said something; and, where the sea and the three hills had been, there came a great city.

Then she went to the King and said, "Are you happy, O my servant?" He said, "Come near." She came near. He said, "Come nearer." Then he killed her.

He went to the young man, and said, "The bad Queen is dead. The city is not a sea, and the men and women are not fish. All is as it was."

The King of the City sent much gold and many beautiful things to the Fisherman, and the Fisherman and his wife lived happily ever after.


QUICKLY!
QUICKLY!

THE WHITE BIRDS

ONCE there was a king who had ten sons; and he had one girl, named Elisa. They were very good children, and they were very happy. For they lived in a beautiful house; they had beautiful clothes, they had hundreds of books of stories; their writing-books were made of gold, and they wrote with jewelled pens. There was a beautiful garden to run about in, and no one ever said, " Do not walk on the flowers ! "

The mother of these children died, and the King married a new Queen. She was a bad woman. The children soon knew that she was bad, and that they would not be happy any more. On the day on which she was married there were many nice things to eat. The children came to her and said, " May we have some of those nice things too ? " Then she gave them some stones and some dust, and said, " There, eat that ! For those are all the nice things you will get from me ! "

After a few days Elisa was sent to live in a poor man's hut far away in the country.

Then the Queen said to the King, " Your ten sons are very bad boys. May I send them away ? "

The King loved his Queen and thought that she was a good woman. He was very sad when he heard that his sons were not good boys, but he said, " If you think that they should go away, they must go away."

Then the bad Queen changed the King's ten sons into ten white birds.

"Go away into some other country," said the Queen. "Be changed into birds that cannot speak; and find your own food where you can."

Then the ten brothers were changed into white birds and they went up, up, up, into the sky; on, on, on, over the hills and rivers; and at last they came to a great forest near to a sea.

Poor Elisa was living alone in the hut. She *did* want to see her brothers whom she loved so much. She told the birds, and she told the flowers in her garden, "I do want my brothers. I want to hear them, and to see their faces." But the flowers could not speak, and the birds did not answer. And Elisa sat down and cried.

Now the King had said that after three years Elisa should come back to her home again. In those three years Elisa had become a very beautiful woman. Elisa went home. When the Queen saw how beautiful Elisa was, she was very angry. She wanted to change Elisa into a white bird too, but she was afraid of the King. So she thought of another thing that she could do.

Elisa had come on a long journey from the hut to her home, so her face and her hands and her clothes were very dusty. Then the Queen said to her, "Will you not wash away the dust before you go to see your father?" Elisa said, "Yes," for she wanted her father to think that she was beautiful.

So Elisa went with the Queen, and the Queen led her to a room where water was set ready. But the Queen had put some powder into the water. And, when Elisa washed in the water, her face became red and ugly. There was no glass in the room; so Elisa could not see her face. She went to the King; and the King cried out, "No, that is not Elisa! Elisa does not look like that at all!"—and he sent her away.

Elisa went out of the house alone. She went along dusty lanes and over fields. On and on she walked, day after day. She did not know where she was going. She was very sad and she wanted to see her brothers. "I will go on and on," she said, "and at last I shall find them."

And it may be that her love led her; for she came at last to the great forest near to the sea.

She had not gone far into the forest when night came on. She could not see to go on any more. So she slept at the foot of a tree. And in her sleep she thought that she saw her brothers. They were reading some of the hundreds of story-books, but all the persons in the stories were alive. The princes and princesses walked about on the paper of the books, and the kings and the queens and the wizards and the fairies spoke. And then, all at once, they all ran back into their books, and the books were shut. Elisa opened her eyes. She had been sleeping in the forest, and the sun was in the sky. The smell of trees and flowers was all about her, and in front of her was a little river.

She went to the river to drink. Then she saw her face in the water, and she knew what the bad Queen had done. But, when she had washed her face in the water, she saw that it was not ugly any more. It was her own beautiful face again, as it had been before.

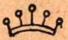
She put down her clothes on the side of the river, and got into the water. Then she put on her clothes again, and walked on and on through the forest.

She walked all day; and, when night came, she slept at the foot of a tree. And all night the fairies stood about her to see that no beast of the forest could come near her or make her afraid.

She set out again; and she saw an old woman. The old woman gave her some food.

"What are you doing here in this great forest?" asked the old woman as Elisa was eating.

"I am looking for my ten brothers," said Elisa. "Have you seen ten princes riding through the forest?"

"Ten princes?" said the old woman. "No, I have not. But I saw ten white birds this morning, and they may have been bird-princes, for they had golden marks, like this—on their  heads. They were near the river."

The old woman led Elisa to the river. Then Elisa walked along the side of the river, and at last she came to the sea.

The sun was going down. Its light made the sea look like a great red jewel. As she stood there, she heard a noise over her head, and she saw ten white birds. She ran and hid. The birds came down very near to the place where she was hiding. They stood there and waited.

Then, just as the sun went down, Elisa saw a change. In place of the birds there were ten young princes.

Elisa gave one cry: then she ran into their arms, calling them by their names. The brothers were so happy that for some time they could not speak. They put their arms about her. They kissed her. Then they said, "How much you have grown!" And then they looked at her, and said, "You are very beautiful, Elisa; are you not, Elisa?" And she said, "No, I am all dusty and ugly. But I am so happy. I am so happy!"

Then one of the brothers said, "We cannot stay here. As soon as it is day we must go back to the Country of the Birds. For we may only come to this place for three days in the year, and this is the last day."

"Can you not take me with you?" said Elisa.

Then the brothers thought how this could be done. And at last they said, "We will work all night and we will make a net. We will take you over the sea in the net. But we must go very quickly; for, when the sun goes down, we shall become men again: and then, if we are over the sea, we shall all fall down into the water.''

So the brothers worked all that night and made ready the net. Just before daylight it was ready. Elisa sat in the net. As the sun came into the sky her brothers were changed into birds. They took the net and went up, over the sea. She looked down and could see nothing but sea—sea everywhere. Sometimes she slept. At noon rain came and they could not go so quickly. She was afraid. ``If they do not come to their country before night,'' she said, ``they will all fall into the sea. Quickly! Quickly!''

All day they went on. They were going more quickly now. The sun was going down: it was near the sea. She looked down; but she saw water only—water everywhere. Down and down went the sun. Then she saw a blue line, very far away: it was the Country of the Birds.

``Quickly! Quickly, or the sun will be gone,'' she cried. Now she could see trees, and a great house, white, with many windows.

The sun has gone! No, not gone. But quickly! quickly!

The last light of the sun was going—gone! They were falling. But it was not far to fall. They were saved!

They slept in a field. Day had come when Elisa awoke.

``Is this your country?'' she said. But there was no answer. Near her stood ten white birds. They could not speak.

She looked about her. It was a beautiful country. At her feet were the prettiest flowers she had ever seen. On all sides were great trees. In front of her were hills, and on one of the hills was a great white house, with many windows.

The white birds went up to the great house. Elisa was alone. She got sticks and made a little hut.

Then she went to get flowers to make her hut look pretty. When she came back she found that someone had put food for her in her hut, fish and eggs and bread.

When night fell her brothers came to see her. They sat just outside the hut and told stories. Then, when it was time to sleep, the brothers went away to sleep under the trees near the hut.

" Sleep well, Elisa," they said.

So Elisa slept in the little hut. And, as she slept, she thought that she saw the old woman who had come to her in the forest. It was the same, but not the same. For now the old woman had become a beautiful fairy.

" Do you want to save your brothers ? " said the fairy.

" Yes," cried Elisa, " I do ! "

" If you want to save them, you must be very brave. Are you brave ? "

" I can be brave to save them," answered Elisa.

" Then I will tell you what you must do. Do you see those plants with golden flowers ? You must put them in water. Then take the hard outside ot the plant, and wash that many times in water. From that you can make cloth. And from the cloth you can make coats. You must make ten coats, one for each of your brothers. You must do all the work with your own hands. And you must not speak. When the last coat is done, you may speak again. If you speak before then, your brothers will die."

Elisa awoke. She knew that a fairy had come to her in her sleep. She looked and saw the plants with the golden flowers growing in the water in front of her hut. There was a hole full of water near. She took the plants and put them down in the water, and she put stones on them to make them stay down. She worked at this all day.

Her brothers came that night, and she did not speak. They thought that the Queen had sent some bad fairy and had done this. Then they saw what she was doing. " Why is she doing that? " they said. But they knew that she was doing it for them.

Day by day she worked, and six coats were ready.

Then one day, when Elisa was working at the water-side, a great dog jumped out at her. Then there came another dog, and another. They made a great noise and ran about her. Then a man came through the trees, and many others came after him. As Elisa looked at him, she knew that he was a good man and that she would never love any other.

He came to her and said, " How did you come here? No one lives on this side of the country."

Elisa said nothing.

The man was the King of a great country near that place.

Each day the King came and spoke to Elisa. He knew that he loved her, and that he would never make any other woman his Queen. He was very sad because she would not speak, but he knew that she would speak some day.

At last one day he said to her, " Will you be my Queen? "

Elisa began to cry. She went from him and took up many of the plants in her arms.

" I will bring all those plants and the work which you are doing. It shall all be brought to my house," he said. " Will you come with me? "

Elisa could not say " No," because she loved him.

So Elisa went with the King to his city, and they brought the plants and the six coats with her. Her brothers were very sad, but each day she saw them far up in the sky over the King's house, and she knew that they were thinking of her.

Now the King had a friend who was a bad man. He was very angry when the King married Elisa, for he wanted to be king when this king died. He thought, " Now the King will get a son, and I shall not become king after him." The King thought that his friend was a good man; for the King was a very kind and good man, and he thought that all other men were like he was.

Every day Elisa worked at the coats. Two more coats were ready now, but the plants were all gone. And the King had gone away from the city on a long journey.

She looked here and she looked there, to find some of the plants; and at last she found some. But they were growing near the place where all the dead beasts were thrown out from the city. The Queen could not go to this place in the day-time. She waited, and, when night came, she took a lamp and went out and got the plants.

Now the King's friend did the work of the King when he was away from the city. He was awake that night, and he saw the Queen go out. And on the next night she went out; and on the next night. Every night the Queen went out: and he saw where she went!

Then he called the great men of the country, and he said to them, "Wait here with me and see what the Queen does at night." So they saw. Then he said, "She must be a bad woman to do this. She is working for some wizard, and she will kill our good King. You know that she never speaks. Why does she never speak? It is because she cannot speak as a woman! It is a wizard who looks like a woman, but he cannot speak as a woman, and that is why he never speaks."

The great men thought that this was so.

Then the friend said, "This wizard should be killed. But the King is so good that he will never kill anyone. We must kill this Queen-wizard before the King comes back."

Only one coat had not been done.

The King's friend came to the Queen and told her that on the next day she would be killed. "You are a wizard," he said, "and you shall be burnt as a wizard in the open place in front of this house."

Now the King was riding along a road one day's journey from the city. And he saw a white bird in the sky. Down it came and sat upon his horse's head.

The horse was afraid and began to go back along the road to the city. The King made his horse go the other way again. But again the bird came down. And so it was again and again. Then the King saw the mark on the bird's head. And he said, "That is a fairy bird. It has come to tell me to go back to the city. When the Queen came, those birds came. Every day I have seen them over my house. The bird has come to tell me to save the Queen. I will go at once."

So he went quickly along the road to the city.

Elisa worked all night. And all night the King was riding and the white bird was over his head making cries as if it would say "Quickly! Quickly!"

Day came. The coat was done.

The men of the city all came to the open place in front of the King's house.

They looked up. "What are those white birds doing in the sky? Why do they make so much noise?" they said.

Wood was brought and put ready.

A man brought fire to the wood, but a white bird came down and threw himself at it, and the fire fell from the man's hand.

Again and again fire was brought; but the white birds came down; and the man had to go back for more.

At last many men went, and the fire was brought.

Men came to the Queen. She took the coats and went out with them in her arms.

The King had come to the city. He saw the men in front of his house.

"What are they doing?" he said.

"Quick-ly! Quick-ly!" cried the white bird.

The Queen was led out of the house. Over her head were the white birds. Another white bird came to them over the heads of all the men. Now there were ten white birds.

The Queen was brought to the fire. The white birds stood about her.

"It is the Queen!" cried the King as he threw the men this way and that, making his way to the place. "A fire!" cried the King. "Why? What are they wanting to burn?"

Then he saw his friend, and he knew! And men ran from before the King seeing the angry light in his eyes.

"Burn her!" cried the friend.

Then the Queen threw the coats over the white birds. They stood up, ten young princes. The Princes took the King's friend by his arms and his feet, "Once! Twice! Three times!" and they threw him into the fire.

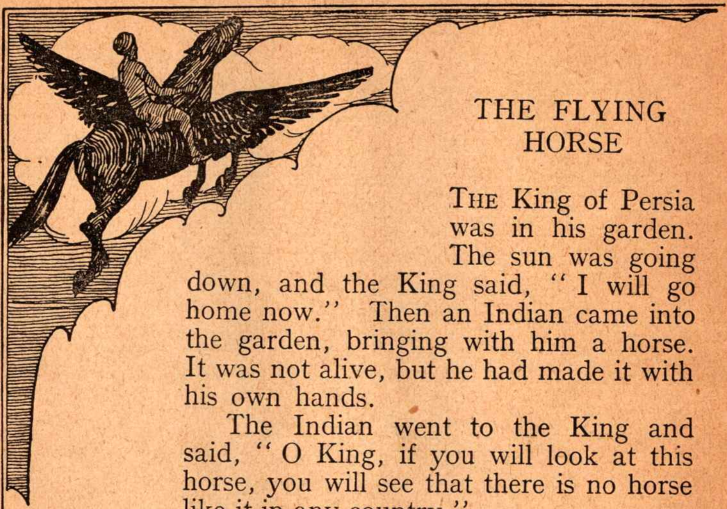
The King put his arms about his Queen.

"Speak to me now," he said, "my beautiful Queen."

. . . .

You know those pretty white birds that live on the sea. You hear them cry, as they go over the great waters, "Quick-ly! Quick-ly!"

This is the story of their cry.



THE FLYING HORSE

THE King of Persia was in his garden. The sun was going down, and the King said, " I will go home now." Then an Indian came into the garden, bringing with him a horse. It was not alive, but he had made it with his own hands.

The Indian went to the King and said, " O King, if you will look at this horse, you will see that there is no horse like it in any country."

The King said, " I see the thing. I see that it is very like a horse. But many men in my country could make a horse like that. I have seen many things as good as that."

The Indian said, " O King, it looks like a horse; that I know, and I do not speak of that. I say that there is no other horse like this, for it can do what no other horse can do. It can **fly.** I can get up on the horse, and say, ' Take me to . . .'—to any country, and the horse will go there. It will go so quickly that you cannot see it as it **flies** through the sky."

The King of Persia loved to see new things. He had never seen a horse like that; so he said to the Indian, " Get on the horse, and I will see what it can do."

Then the Indian got on the horse and said, " Where shall I go? What shall I bring? "

The King said, " Do you see that big hill very far away? On the top of that hill there is a tree, and on the top of that tree there is a red flower. Go and bring me the flower."

There was a little ring on the horse's head. The Indian put his hand on the ring. Then the horse **flew** up into the sky like a bird. It was soon so far away that no one could see it.

After an hour the King saw something in the sky very, very far away. Then he saw that it was the Indian and his horse. The horse flew over the King's garden and then came quickly down. The Indian got down from the horse, went to the King, and gave him a red flower. The King said, " It is the flower. There is no horse like it. Will you sell the horse to me? What shall I give you for it? "

The Indian said, " I knew that you would want to have this horse, when you had seen what it could do. I will sell it to you, if you will give me what I want."

" Take anything that is in my country," said the King.

" I will sell you the horse," answered the Indian, " if you will give me the Princess to be my wife. But I will take no other thing for it."

The son of the King was called Prince Firoz Shah. The Prince was very angry when he heard this. He said to the Indian, " Do you ask for the Princess! If I were king, I would kill you for this."

The King said nothing. Then the Prince said to the King, " My father, would you give your own child for a horse? That can never be! "

The King answered, " My son, you do not know what a horse this is."

The Indian said, " The Prince may get on the horse, and see how it goes."

Then the Prince got on the horse; he put his hand on the ring, and the horse flew up into the sky. Soon the people could not see him any more; he had gone far away out of the sky.

They waited for some time, but the Prince did not come back. They waited, and he did not come. Then the King said to the Indian, " Why does not the Prince come back? "

The Indian was afraid, and said to the King, " O King, the Prince went away very quickly. I did not tell him how to make the horse come down again. Do not be angry with me. What could I do? "

The King said, " Why did you not call to him, when you saw him flying away? "

" O King, he went so quickly. If he puts his hand on the other ring, the horse will come down again."

But the King was very angry: he said, " You shall be shut up in a small room; and if, in a hundred days, my son has not come back to me, you shall be killed."

Prince Firoz Shah sat on the horse and went up and up into the sky. For an hour he went up and up. Then, after an hour, he said, " It is time to go back home." He put his hand on the ring: but the horse did not go back: it went on and on, and up and up. Then he was afraid, and he said, " I did not ask the Indian how to make the horse go down again." He looked at the horse's body, and he looked at the horse's head. Then he saw another little ring near the horse's ear. He put his hand on this ring, and the horse went down and down.

Night had come and the Prince could not see where the horse was going. After some time the horse came down on the top of a house. Prince Firoz got down from the horse, and looked to see where he was. He saw that he was on the top of a very big house. He walked to this side, and then to that side, and he could not see how to get down from the top of the house. Then he saw a little door.

There was no light, and he could not see where he was going, but he put his hand on the wall. Then he came to another door. He opened the door, and saw a room. There was a light in the room; he looked in, and saw many men sleeping. On the other side of the room he saw a big door. He opened the big door and went into the other room. Many women were sleeping in the room. There was a bed in the room all made of gold. He went to the bed and saw a very beautiful woman sleeping on it.

The Prince put his hand on her arm; then she sat up in bed. Prince Firoz Shah said, " I am a prince. I am the son of the King of Persia, and this day I was with my father in his garden. But now I do not know where I am. I do not know what country this is; and men are at the door ready to kill me if you call them."

The beautiful woman was the child of the King of Bengal. She said to Prince Firoz Shah, " Do not be afraid, but tell me how you come from Persia to Bengal so quickly. But I will give you food, for you have come far."

The servants were now all awake; she called one of them. The servant took Prince Firoz to a big room: two others brought him water and clothes.

The Princess of Bengal could not sleep again. One of her servants came into the room: she said to that servant, " Has the Prince got all that he wants? " The servant said, " He has all that he wants. . . . He is a great prince. There is no prince like him in Bengal. It would be a good thing if you married the Prince."

The Princess said, " Do not speak to me in that way."

Then she got out of bed: she sent a woman to bring her most beautiful clothes. Then she sent a servant to the Prince to ask if he was ready to see her.

The Princess came into the room and sat down; she said, " Tell me now, O Prince, how you came to this place."

Then the Prince told the Princess how he had come.

One of the servants came in, and said that food was ready. When the Prince and Princess had eaten, they went into another room. On its walls was cloth of red and gold: the door of the room opened on to a garden full of trees and flowers.

Prince Firoz said, " My father's house is great and beautiful, but it is not so big or so beautiful as this house."

The Princess of Bengal said, " This house is not the King's house. It is my house. My father's house is bigger and more beautiful than this."

For many days Prince Firoz stayed at the house of the Princess of Bengal. They walked in the garden, and were very happy.

Then one day the Prince said, " I must go back to Persia, for my father will be thinking that I am dead."

She said, " No, stay some days more."

So the Prince stayed. . . . Then again he said, " I must go back to my father. Men will say that I am dead, and he will be afraid. But I ask one thing of you: when I go, come with me on the horse. We will go on the Flying Horse to my father's house; and I shall ask my father if I may marry you."

She said, " I will come."

No one was awake when the Prince and the Princess went on to the top of the house. The horse was there ready. The Princess and the Prince got up on the horse. The Prince put his hand on the ring and the horse flew up into the sky. In two hours they were over the city of the King of Persia.

The Prince had a house not far from the city. He made the horse go to that house. The Princess stayed in the house. Then the Prince went through the streets of the city to see his father, the King. The King was sitting in his house; for men had told him that his son Firoz was dead. The Prince came to him, and the King did not know what to do, for he was so happy to see his son again. Then the Prince told his father where he had gone. And then he said, "I want to marry the Princess of Bengal; so I have brought her with me. She is in my house not far from the city."

"Bring the Princess of Bengal to me," said the King, "and I will thank her for saving my son; and she shall marry you here in my house."

Then all were happy. The King said to his men, "Bring the Indian to me." So the men went and brought the Indian to the King. The King said, "My son has come back. Take your horse and go."

Then the Indian went out into the city. A man told him where the Prince had gone, and said, "The Princess of Bengal is now at the Prince's house not far from the city." The Indian was angry with the King. He went to the Prince's house, and said to the servant at the door, "The King of Persia has sent me to bring the Princess of Bengal to him on the Flying Horse."

The servant knew the Indian, for he had seen him in the King's garden. So he went and told the Princess of Bengal. Then the Indian put the Princess on the horse, got up on the horse, and made the horse go up into the sky.

The King of Persia looked up and saw the Princess of Bengal on the horse with the Indian; and he was very angry.

Prince Firoz looked and saw her on the horse. Then the horse flew away, and they could see it no more.

The Prince did not know what to do. He could not go after and bring her back; he did not know where she had gone. He said, "I will go into all countries and look for her. But, if I go as I am, in these clothes, all men will know that it is the Prince Firoz Shah, and that he is looking for the Princess of Bengal. Then the Indian will hear that I am coming; and, when I come, he will have gone to some other country."

So the Prince got the clothes of a poor man, and put them on; and he went to look for the Princess of Bengal.

The Flying Horse went over rivers and hills and cities and seas, and came to the country of Cashmir. The Indian wanted food, so he brought the horse down near a forest. He said to the Princess, "Sit down at the foot of that big tree, and I will go and get food." Then he went away. When he had gone, she cried, "Save me! Save me from this man! Save me from the Indian who has taken me away from my father."

The King of Cashmir was riding in the forest with his men: he heard the cries and went quickly to see what it was. The Indian came running back. Then the King of Cashmir said to the Indian, "What is this? Why does she call out?"

The Indian answered, "The woman is my wife. Do not speak to her. Go away."

The Princess said, "I am not his wife. I am the Princess of Bengal; and I was to be married to the Prince of Persia this day; but the Indian took me away from Persia, and has brought me to this forest."

The King of Cashmir saw that she was a Princess, so he told his men to kill the Indian and to give the Princess a horse. Then the King's men killed the Indian.

The Princess of Bengal went with the King of Cashmir to his house in the city.

The Princess was very happy, for she said, "The King is a good man, and he will send me back to Persia."

But the King was not a good man. When he went away from her he said to his men, "Go through the city, and tell all men that the King of Cashmir will marry the Princess of Bengal."

All was made ready. Then the King of Cashmir came to the Princess of Bengal, and said, "Is the Princess ready? This day she will marry the King of Cashmir." Then she was afraid: and she fell down as if she was dead.

After some time she awoke. She said, "I will make them think that I am ill. Then the King will not make me marry him."

When the King came to her, she was in her bed, and her eyes were shut. Then the King said, "She is ill. I will wait for some days." But she was ill for many days. Then the King sent for all his wizards; but none could do anything to help the Princess. She stayed in her bed, and her eyes were shut.

Prince Firoz Shah went from one city to another asking, "Where is the Princess of Bengal? Have you seen a Flying Horse?"

Then he came to the country of Cashmir and he heard someone say to another, "Have you heard that the King of Cashmir wanted to marry the Princess of Bengal? All was ready, and then the Princess became ill. And now no one can do anything to help her. She is in bed, and I think she will die."

Then the Prince got the clothes of a wizard and went to the house of the King of Cashmir. He said, "I am a wizard, and I can help all persons who are ill. I have heard that the Princess of Bengal is ill."

The servant told the King, "There is a wizard; he says that he can help all persons who are ill."

The King said, "Many have come, and none have helped her. But he may see her."

They took Prince Firoz to the Princess. She was in bed and her eyes were shut. He went near to her, and said in her ear, "I am Prince Firoz." Then she said, "I wanted them to think that I am ill. For they told me to marry the King. But I am not ill."

Prince Firoz said, "Go on being ill. I shall say that I can help you."

Then Prince Firoz went to the King of Cashmir and said, "She will not die if you will do what I say. I have heard of a horse that was with her when you found her in the forest. She speaks of it. Where is it now?"

The King said, " There was a horse. My men saw it, and put it in a hut in the garden. It is there now."

" Tell your men," said the Prince, " to take the horse out into a field. Tell them to make a big fire."

The King did this. A big fire was made. The horse was brought into the field, and put near the fire. Then Prince Firoz said, " Bring the Princess of Bengal." Then they brought her, and she stood near the horse.

Prince Firoz said, " We will burn the horse, and the Princess shall see it burn. Make the fire larger."

Then the men made the fire larger. The King and all his men were on one side of the fire, standing far away, because it was so hot. The Prince and the Princess were on the other side, with the horse.

Then Prince Firoz quickly put the Princess on the horse; he got up on the horse, and put his hand on the ring. The horse flew up into the sky and took them away.

So Prince Firoz and the Princess of Bengal came back to Persia.

Then Prince Firoz married the Princess of Bengal; and they lived happily ever after.

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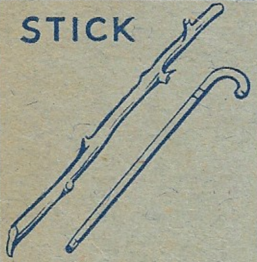

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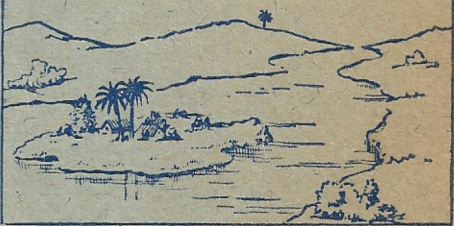

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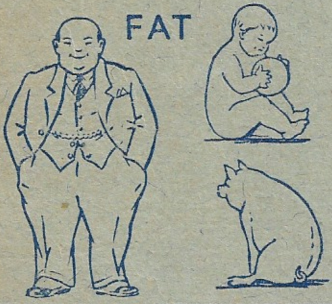

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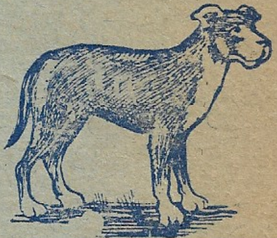

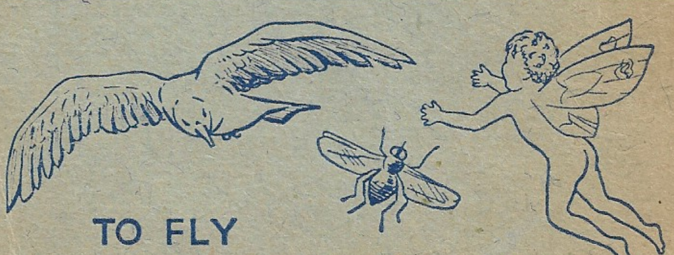

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